

DD/S&T# 2166-73

NPIC/D-273-73

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT : Report for the DCI on Improving National Tasking Plan
Procedures and NPIC-EXSUBCOM Relations

1. In the Inspector General's 1972 survey of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, the IG recommended:

"That the Deputy Director for Intelligence ask the Director of Central Intelligence to appoint a USIB task force of representatives from the appropriate departments and agencies to review and make recommendations for changes in the National Tasking Plan for the Exploitation of Multi-Sensor Imagery."

This recommendation derived from the survey team's examination of the dissatisfaction it found among NPIC officers because of duplicative work being done by various photointerpreter organizations under the National Tasking Plan, and because of the performance of the Exploitation Subcommittee of COMIREX in levying requirements upon NPIC without sufficient review or reason.

2. The Deputy Director for Intelligence responded to this recommendation by commenting that Agency and NPIC officers should be able to solve most of the problems described by the survey team through an administrative approach. He urged that we try to do so before taking the step of establishing a USIB task force. Mr. Helms concurred and directed that the DDI report to the DCI on 1 July 1973 concerning 'progress through this approach so that the alternative of opening this subject with USIB could be considered at that time if the administrative approach has not produced sufficient improvement.'

3. I report the following progress:

a. NPIC officers have become more effective in managing and questioning new and existing target exploitation requirements. NPIC's Executive Director instructed the division

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chiefs of the Imagery Exploitation Group that they were responsible for approving work against new target nominations. They are not to accept new targets when they do not understand the reason for the nomination or disagree with the reason given for making it a target for national exploitation. To date, 494 new target nominations have been rejected and returned to EXSUBCOM. To date, 627 existing targets have been nominated by NPIC to EXSUBCOM for removal or priority downgrading -- and 502 of those changes were agreed to by EXSUBCOM members.

b. EXSUBCOM during FY 73 succeeded in holding steady the number of high priority exploitation targets, with one temporary and justifiable increase of high priority targets in Southeast Asia. NPIC now works against some 800 high priority targets of which 200 are the Southeast Asia targets mentioned.

c. Lesser priority targets were reduced in total numbers during FY 73 through EXSUBCOM and NPIC reviews and actions. The slight total decrease was managed despite a large number of new identifications resulting [redacted] In addition to the actions already mentioned, EXSUBCOM has effectively removed some four and a half thousand targets from the list of those which must be reported -- if seen -- in every mission and has reassigned them by classes for scheduled semi-annual and annual reporting. The total number of lesser priority targets for exploitation by NPIC is being held to about 12,000.

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4. NPIC is working with EXSUBCOM members on additional ways to organize NPIC's first and second phase readouts to make them more responsive to national needs, and less burdensome to resources. We also plan to study and make recommendations concerning duplicative PI work in this area.

5. Regarding NPIC's third phase -- Basic Reports -- reporting responsibilities, we initiated an effort early this year to reduce the number of routine reports and to focus on doing those which would be

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responsive to identified customers' specified needs. This effort is in response to Mr. Schlesinger's direction and includes limiting the distribution of such reports. At the same time, EXSUBCOM is conducting a thorough review of the entire Basic Reports program. The results of this review will be available later this year and should offer further ideas about how we can improve such services and reduce duplication and the impact on resources.

6. In sum, considerable progress has been, is being, and will be made in improving the workings of the National Tasking Plan and the relationships between NPIC and EXSUBCOM. I believe that the progress achieved and that promised is sufficient to recommend that we continue with this effort and that we do not need to introduce the subject for USIB action.

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JOHN J. HICKS
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National Photographic Interpretation Center